

as he supplied Dr. Beirne with the description of the larva of *bowesi*, which he had bred, as that of *osteodactylus*.

Harry Huggins was a most interesting and entertaining companion with a wide knowledge and an incredible fund of anecdote, much of it entomological reaching back to the early 1900's. Possessed of a phenomenal memory he could recall details of past exploits and encounters with many entomologists long since dead, among them J. W. Tutt, Charles Fenn, Richard South, Sir John Fryer, the Rev. Metcalfe, J. W. Corder and W. G. Sheldon to mention but a few of those with whom he was acquainted or who were his friends. He was also an excellent correspondent, and to receive one of his letters so full of information and that characteristic racy humour of his was enjoyable indeed.

An inveterate reader and prolific writer, he contributed hundreds of notes to this magazine (including the series "Notes on the Microlepidoptera") and to the *Entomologist*, many of them on new subspecies and aberrations, especially those from Ireland noted over the past 60 years. He was also one of the authors of the recently published *A Guide to the Butterflies and Larger Moths of Essex*. He was a member of the editorial panel of the *Entomologist's Record* from 1962 until his death; he joined the (then) South London Entomological and Natural History Society in 1934; and was elected F.R.E.S. in 1936. Except for the Tineoidea (which group he did not collect owing to a physical disability in his hands which prevented him from handling such small insects), I believe his was the most complete private collection of British lepidoptera in existence.¹ Fortunately the whole of this splendid collection has been presented to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

In 1918, he married Ethel Ada Grist of Erith, who until her death in 1963 was a great help in his collecting, and caught the first *Cryphia muralis* ab. *nigra* Huggins and *Euphyia bilineata* ab. *ethelae* Huggins. They had one son, who like his father, became a manager of a branch of Westminster Bank, and to whom we offer our sincerest sympathy. — J.M.C.-H.

¹ Among the highlights of his collection are specimens of *Arctornis l-nigrum* O. F. Müller, *Leucodonta bicoloria* D. & S., *Oxyptilus pilosellae* Z., *Gibberifera simplana* F.v.R.; also, series of *Costaconvexa polygrammata* Bork., *Archips betulana* Hbn. (*decretana* Tr.) and *Choristoneura lafauryana* Ragonot, which three species are probably now only represented in museum collections.

AN EARLY APPEARANCE OF *ACHERONTIA ATROPOS* L. — A specimen of *A. atropos* came to my light-trap here on the night of April 27th/28th last. Believing the moth to be a female, I kept it alive in a large container supplied with food and suitable vegetation in the hope that it might lay. The moth which was in quite good condition apart from the loss of one of its antennae, survived until the night of May 13th/14th having hardly moved, apparently not fed and certainly not laid any eggs. — J. L. MESSENGER, Stonehaven, Wormley Hill, Whitley, Surrey.